



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0108; FRL- 9769-6]

Release of Draft Document Related to the Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Lead

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Availability of draft documents for public comment.

SUMMARY: On or about January 8, 2013, the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) will make available for public review the draft document titled, *Policy Assessment for the Review of the Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards, External Review Draft* (PA). This document was prepared as part of the current review of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for lead (Pb).

DATES: Comments should be received on or before February 4.

ADDRESSES: This document is available primarily via the Internet at the following website:

http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/pb/s_pb_index.html.

Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0108, by one of the following methods:

- www.regulations.gov: Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
- Email: a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov.
- Fax: 202-566-1741.
- Mail: EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0108, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail code 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460. Please include a total of two copies.

- Hand Delivery: Environmental Protection Agency, EPA West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

Instructions: Direct your comments to Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0108. The EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change and may be made available online at www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected through www.regulations.gov (or email). The www.regulations.gov website is an "anonymous access" system, which means the EPA will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. If you send an e-mail comment directly to the EPA without going through www.regulations.gov, your e-mail address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available on the Internet. If you submit an electronic comment, the EPA recommends that you include your name and other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD-ROM you submit. If the EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, the EPA may not be able to consider your comment. Electronic files should avoid the use of special characters, any form of encryption, and be free of any defects or viruses. For additional information about the EPA's public docket, visit the EPA Docket Center homepage at <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/dockets.htm>.

Docket: All documents in the docket are listed in the www.regulations.gov index. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, e.g., CBI or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, will be publicly available only in hard copy. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically in

www.regulations.gov or in hard copy at the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, EPA/DC, EPA West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, DC. The Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center is (202) 566-1742.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Deirdre Murphy, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (Mail code C504-06), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711; telephone number: 919-541-0729; fax number: 919-541-0237; e-mail address: murphy.deirdre@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Comments for the EPA?

1. *Submitting CBI.* Do not submit this information to the EPA through www.regulations.gov or e-mail. Clearly mark the part or all of the information that you claim to be CBI. For CBI information in a disk or CD-ROM that you mail to the EPA, mark the outside of the disk or CD-ROM as CBI and then identify electronically within the disk or CD-ROM the specific information that is claimed as CBI. In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public docket. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2.

2. *Tips for Preparing Your Comments.* When submitting comments, remember to:

- Identify the rulemaking by docket number and other identifying information (subject heading, Federal Register date and page number).

- Follow directions—The agency may ask you to respond to specific questions or organize comments by referencing a Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part or section number.
- Explain why you agree or disagree; suggest alternatives and substitute language for your requested changes.
- Describe any assumptions and provide any technical information and/ or data that you used.
- If you estimate potential costs or burdens, explain how you arrived at your estimate in sufficient detail to allow for it to be reproduced.
- Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns, and suggest alternatives.
- Explain your views as clearly as possible, avoiding the use of profanity or personal threats.
- Make sure to submit your comments by the comment period deadline identified.

II. Information Specific to This Document

Two sections of the Clean Air Act govern the establishment and revision of the NAAQS. Section 108 (42 U.S.C. section 7408) directs the Administrator to identify and list certain air pollutants and then to issue air quality criteria for those pollutants. The Administrator is to list those air pollutants that in her “judgment, cause or contribute to air pollution which may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare;” “the presence of which in the ambient air results from numerous or diverse mobile or stationary sources;” and “for which . . . [the Administrator] plans to issue air quality criteria...” Air quality criteria are intended to “accurately reflect the latest scientific knowledge useful in indicating the kind and extent of all identifiable effects on public health or welfare which may be expected from the presence of [a] pollutant in the ambient air . . .” 42 U.S.C. § 7408(b). Under section 109 (42 U.S.C. 7409), the EPA establishes primary (health-based) and secondary (welfare-based) NAAQS for pollutants for which air quality criteria are issued. Section 109(d) requires periodic review and, if appropriate, revision of existing air quality criteria. The revised air quality criteria reflect advances in scientific

knowledge on the effects of the pollutant on public health or welfare. The EPA is also required to periodically review and, if appropriate, revise the NAAQS, based on the revised air quality criteria. Section 109(d)(2) requires that an independent scientific review committee “shall complete a review of the criteria . . . and the national primary and secondary ambient air quality standards . . . and shall recommend to the Administrator any new . . . standards and revisions of existing criteria and standards as may be appropriate” Since the early 1980's, this independent review function has been performed by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC).

Presently, EPA is reviewing the air quality criteria and NAAQS for Pb. The EPA’s overall plan and schedule for this review is presented in the *Integrated Review Plan for the Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards*.¹ The draft PA document announced today, when final, will serve to “bridge the gap” between the scientific information and the judgments required of the Administrator in determining whether to retain or revise the existing NAAQS for Pb, and, if revision is considered, what revisions may be appropriate. The draft PA builds upon information presented in the third draft *Integrated Science Assessment for Lead*² and health and ecological risk assessments developed in the last review.³ The draft PA will be available on or about January 8, 2013, through the agency’s Technology Transfer Network (TTN) website at http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/pb/s_pb_index.html.

The EPA is soliciting advice and recommendations from the CASAC by means of a review of this draft document at an upcoming public meeting of the CASAC. Information about this public meeting, including the dates and location, will be published as a separate notice in the Federal Register. Following the CASAC meeting, the EPA will consider comments received from the CASAC and the public in preparing revisions to this document. The EPA will consider public comments submitted in

¹ EPA EPA-452/R-11-008; November 2011; Available: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/pb/data/20111117PbIRPfinal.pdf>.

² EPA/600/R-10/075C; November 2012 ; <http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/isa/recordisplay.cfm?deid=242655>.

³ Upon consideration of the evidence newly available in this review with regard to risk and exposure assessment in the REA Planning Document for the review (available at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/pb/data/20110628pbplanningdoc.pdf>), staff concluded, and CASAC Pb Panel generally concurred, that new health and ecological REAs were not warranted by the newly available evidence.

response to this notice when revising the documents. Comments should be submitted to the docket, as described above. The document that is the subject of today's notice does not represent and should not be construed to represent any final EPA policy, viewpoint, or determination.

Dated: January 7, 2013.

Mary E. Henigin, Acting Director,
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards.

[FR Doc. 2013-00430 Filed 01/10/2013 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 01/11/2013]